

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

JUN 16 1977

DATE ENTERED

NOV 10 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

**

HISTORIC

WILLIAM CLARK HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

NORTH WARD EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL CENTER (NWECC)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

346 Mt. Prospect Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Newark

VICINITY OF

10th (Peter W. Rodino, Jr.)

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New Jersey

34

Essex

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

X STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

X PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

X ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

X EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

X OTHER: social,
cultural

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

NORTH WARD EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC. (Contact: Stephen Aduato, Dir.)

STREET & NUMBER

346 Mt. Prospect Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Newark

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry Division, Essex County Clerks Office

STREET & NUMBER

Essex County Court House, West Market and High Streets

CITY, TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey 07102

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSOffice of Historic Preservation,
Department of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

William Clark occupied the little-altered, red brick, hip-and-gable-roofed, Queen Anne style (because of his admiration of H. H. Richardson, who, in his early career did dwellings in this style) (It might also be called French Provincial or Jacobethen Revival in style) residence from its completion in 1880 until his death in 1902. Designed by William Halsey Wood, the house represents one of the earliest of the great Forest Hill mansions. For decades it has been regarded as one of Essex County's most handsome turn-of-the-century dwellings, and today it is both a striking reminder of the economic and cultural impact of Newark's nineteenth century industrial leaders and an essential cog in the city's efforts to preserve the important remaining physical elements of that highly significant era of its and New Jersey's history.

Although somewhat irregular in plan, the south-facing Clark House consists essentially of an approximately sixty-foot square main block with an approximately forty-foot-long, thirty-foot-wide ell at the rear of the west side. The former bears a gabled roof and the latter a low-pitched hipped roof, and the entire structure sits over a partially raised basement and on a foundation of brick and stone. Exterior basement walls are stone ashlar, while the remaining exterior walls are red-brick ornamented by a beveled stone watertable, stone beltcourses, and stone quoins. Several tall, corbelled and paneled, red-brick chimneys top the edifice.

Fenestration is irregular in placement but mostly rectangular with windows generally one-over-one sash with stone sills, lintels, and quoins. Round-arched windows are featured only on the first-story rear of the main block. Several bay windows highlight the facades of the main block. These include a one-story, rectangular bay with double tripartite windows to the left of the main entrance on the front facade; a one-story, seven-window, rounded bay on both the east and west sides; a one-story, six-window rectangular bay on the east side rear of the rounded bay; and a two-story, six window, rounded bay on the rear facade. In each of these bays, the window openings are crossed by masonry mullions and transoms, and atop each bay is either a solid or a sculptured masonry balustrade. Corbelled out from the wall at the second and third floor levels of the east facade--between the rounded bay and the rectangular bay--is a terra cotta tourelle bearing a sculptured anchor at the base and three narrow rectangular windows at the second floor level.

The main entrance of the Clark House is set beneath a one-bay-wide, one-bay-deep, gabled, central pavilion that projects left of center from the front facade of the main block. Marble columns support the open, portico-like, first-story portion of the pavilion, which shelters the double, wood, sidelighted and transomed front door.

Inside, the Clark House retains its original floor plan, much of its original oak flooring, and all its elaborate first-story woodwork and plaster ornamentation. The front door opens into an approximately three-by-twelve-foot foyer that admits to a ten-by-twelve-foot entrance hall with sculptured fireplace. At the left of these rooms is an eight-by-thirteen-foot coat closet. The entrance hall opens into a 520-square-foot, wood-paneled reception room from which a beautiful, wide, two-flight, open, balustraded stair rises to the second floor via a landing lighted by four doubled transomed, rectangular windows. South of the stair and left of the reception hall is

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	☒ INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1873-1880	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	William Halsey Wood
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As was typical in New Jersey and the United States Newark's industrial strength developed during the Civil War. The production of pre-fitted clothing increased significantly following the Civil War corresponding with improved technology and the enormous influx of immigrants into the country. Much of the thread running through the nations clothing factories and custom tailors in the second half of the 19th century and into the 20th century came from two New Jersey thread manufacturers - Clark Thread and Barbour Flax Spinning Company of Paterson.

George Clark and brother William Clark took advantage of the rapidly developing apparel factories in the country by establishing the Clark Thread Company of Newark and East Newark.

One of America's most famous and oldest thread producers, the trademark which Clark Thread created ("O.N.T." - Our New Thread) is still used despite the fact the company has long since moved South.

The William Clark House clearly reflects the social stature which this industrial magnate held in Newark and is one of the last extant late 19th century baronial estates in the city.

The initial statements concerning the reasons for this property's selection as a potential State and National Registered landmark would include the following:

Main home of William Clark, co-founder of the great Clark Thread Mills in East Newark and Newark.

Constructed between 1873 and 1880 at a cost about \$200,000. This former residence occupies an area that was once part of Branch Brook Park.

Another fine work by noted architect, William Halsey Wood, known for other great works in Newark, most notably, First Baptist Peddie Memorial in the Richardsonian Romanesque. One of the more handsome homes built around the turn of the century in the mostly rural Forest Hill section of Newark. Built of imported materials and nicely landscaped. A very important stabilizing factor in the predominantly Italian-American North Ward area. Vital programs for all groups.

INDUSTRY - The discovery of the very first cotton thread used for sewing belongs to descendants of the builder of the house in question. Peter Clark of Paisley, Scotland, was the individual who discovered the thread during and as a result

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cunningham, John T., Newark, The New Jersey Historical Society, 1966.

Eldridge, Douglas, William Clark Mansion, Newark, New Jersey, 1962.

Ford, William F., The Industrial Interests of Newark, New Jersey, Van Arsdale and Company, New York, New York, 1874.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 2 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 8	5 6 9 8 6 0	4 5 1 2 6 8 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the William Clark House is shown as the blue area on the accompanying map section entitled "Newark, Hagstrom Map", 1974.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Anthony Vacca, Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee - Donald N. Eshleman,
ORGANIZATION DATE
North Ward Educational and Cultural Center - George R. Adams, American Assn' State & Local
STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE History
346 Mt. Prospect Ave. 07104 or 10 Bank St., 5th Floor 07102
CITY OR TOWN STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐ STATE ☒ LOCAL ☐

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE MAY 1977

Assistant Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:	DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE	11/10/77
	Matthew H. Cole	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE 11-9-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

William Clark House
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 07102

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7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

a twenty-five-by-twenty-foot parlor or sitting room with rounded bay, and right of the reception room is a similar parlor that might have served as a library. To its rear is what probably was a ballroom or music room. It has a beautiful parquet floor and a plaster ceiling with rich, foliated ornamentation. Rear of it is a small sewing room, now an office, with carved wood mantel. Rear of the reception room is the twenty-by-fourteen-foot dining room with five-foot-high paneled wainscoting richly carved wood mantel with tittle facing, dentiled plaster cornice, and stained-glass windows. Left of the dining room is an east-west hall leading into the first floor of the ell, which contains a pantry, modernized kitchen, related service rooms, and an enclosed stair to the upper stories and basement.

Upstairs, the second floor of the main block contains six bedrooms with appropriate dressing and bath chambers, while the ell contains servants quarters. The third floor features a similar layout. Throughout the house, including in the multi-chambered basement, most rooms are utilized currently as classrooms, offices and study space for the North Ward Educational and Cultural Center, Inc., which has taken great care to maintain the house as nearly as possible in its original condition.

Recently fire destroyed a portion of the roof of the main block, heavily damaging the third floor, and burning the main stair between the second and third floors. Fortunately, however, except for some smoke damage, the first floor escaped harm. Efforts are already underway to repair the residence. National Register status is highly regarded and desirable not only because of the historic and architectural significant of the building, but to further its restoration and enable it to secure fire code classification as an historic structure and thus avoid certain alterations, particularly in regard to the beautiful main stair, that would be required otherwise and would mar its historic integrity.

The Clark House sets at the center rear of a block-wide, shaded lot that is bounded on the east side by the original stone and cast-iron fence. The house is accessible to the public only by special appointment. There is one other structure within the boundary of the nominated property. A modern garage-shop-and-storage building, it rests rear and northwest of the house and is non-historic.

Social/Humanitarian - The North Ward Educational and Cultural Center today provides vital services to this predominantly Italian-American area of Newark. The Center's Director, Stephen Adubato said; "No one should live in a place like this...it should be used as we are utilizing it to fill the needs of thousands of residents." (Star Ledger, April 18, 1975) Owned by the Prospect Hill County Day

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7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

School from 1925 until the NWECC purchased it in 1973, the Mansion represents an outstanding example of an adaptive re-use. It is an important and vital entity in the North Ward section of the city. Provided by the center are programs such as; Senior citizens activities with more than 2,500 people involved; College counseling services which involve hundreds of students by providing scholarships loans and grants; a neighborhood college, operated in conjunction with Essex County College; High School Equivalency courses; Pre-Schooling and education; Community relations; and many various youth programs which aid the neighborhood and provide for stabilization.

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William Clark Mansion

Newark

Essex County

New Jersey 031

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

~~result~~ of, the Napoleonic Wars. We cannot speak of the textile industry without reference to cotton thread and the story of cotton thread would be incomplete without mention of the Clarks, who pioneered in the field. In the early 18th century, cotton thread for the purpose of sewing, was unknown. Instead, flax, worked by spindles and distaff into hanks of coarse linen thread, was used for all kinds of sewing (especially garments). When Napoleon captured Hamburg, Germany, he deprived the English and Scottish weavers of the valuable materials so essential to the loom. Peter Clark then looked for a suitable substitute. After a series of experiments with cotton, he found a thread from cotton material which answered his need. In fact, the discovery would supply him and the world with a more preferable product to the old linen thread. After working for some time with the manufacture of heddle-twined, he and his firm switched over to making spool-cotton. Naturally, America did not receive this outstanding thread immediately and it was not until about 1818 that sailing men began bringing the Clark sewing thread to this shore.

George A. Clark began making shawls in Paisley, Scotland, but relinquished that business to come to the United States (first to Ontario, Canada to become partners in Kerr & Company) and became involved in Peter Kerr's Company, which was also in the business of making cotton thread. When Peter Kerr passed on, George became sole owner of the company. This was the foundation of the Clark Thread Company. In 1873, the Clark Mills along both banks of the Passaic River, employed more than three thousand operators, and the firm reached worldwide markets. In 1864, George Clark had founded the small plant in Newark and he began a rather small operation in a hired building at the corner of Fulton and Front Streets. By the Spring of 1866, the enormous plant opened.

William Clark, brother of George and co-founder of the great Clark Mills, as well as builder of this fine mansion, became sole manager of the vast operations already in motion at the time of his brother's death. William was also, as was his entire family, born in Paisley, Scotland and it was in 1866 that he became a partner with George in the company. Every year thereafter, the works greatly expanded in size and quality. William proved able to take the helm from his brother, and he was to command all the respect and confidence which is due to much older and experienced than was William at the time. Never satisfied with the present state of affairs, William endeavored to double his already enormous operations and indeed, he did. Before long, the Clark Thread Company controlled both banks of the Passaic River and its products were known internationally. Thus,

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New Jersey

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

to William Clark, must go the credit of greatly expanding and enlarging the Clark establishment. Although twenty years George's junior, he had all the business sense and acumen of the older Clarks. Naturally, like his brother, he was very much sought after as a leader in the community. Though extremely busy with the leadership of his operations, he always found time to become involved with community problems. Among other duties, he served as manager of Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, and Director of the American Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He was also President of the Board of Trustees of the Newark Eye and Ear Infirmary. He later became a member of the Newark Library Association (to which he was a generous benefactor) and member of the Board of Trade. Politically, William Clark was a Republican.

Befitting a man of baronial position, which William obviously enjoyed by the last quarter of the 19th century, he commissioned William Halsey Wood to build an enormous home in the then rural North Ward (Forest Hill section) of Newark. The house, a masterpiece of beauty, was situated upon a hill overlooking the vast Mills below on both sides of the river. It was one of the first and finest mansions to be built in the Forest Hill section and when completed, the 28 room home was a center of social life in the city. Hundreds of carriages could be seen around the home at one time as the youth and beauty of Newark gathered there. The architect was endowed with outstanding natural settings. The hill was situated above and presented a fabulous view of the Manhattan skyline and the Passaic River Valley. The natural landscaped area provided even more of a picturesque setting to the building.

Architect - Though born in Dansville, New York in 1855, William Halsey Wood resided in Newark for much of his lifetime. His education was at the Episcopal Parish School of the House of Prayer in Newark and was thus raised with a very firm religious (High Episcopalian) background. At 24 years of age he left the firm of Taylor, Roberts and Wood and went out of his own. His most notable work soon after was the Clark Mansion (most notable of the 1870's). His development as an architect is rather difficult to follow since he was an individualist who never really fit into a particular style or mold. He built few homes and many churches and church related structures, most notably in Newark, First Baptist Peddie Memorial in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Wood was a follower of H.H. Richardson but was also, undoubtedly influenced by this many visits to England in the 1870's. As a young man, Wood had inherited the American Stick Type architecture and much of the English Manorial expounded by Richardson. He eventually progressed into the Shingle Style. But the actual style of the Clark House is debatable. In R. Craig

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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William Clark House

Newark

Essex County

New Jersey 034

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Miller's work, "The Domestic Architecture of William Halsey Wood," the author contends that the home is of the "Jacobethan Revival Style." He explains that Wood was influenced by Robert Kerrs, "The Gentleman's House" of 1865, which would also explain the very Victorian interiors of the Clark mansion. Queen Anne style has been suggested because of the eclectic nature of the house and Wood's admiration for Richardson. In his early career, Richardson was known to design dwellings in that style. Due to the lack of one specific architectural name, French Provincial has also been mentioned in some reports on the home.

In short, Wood was born at the height of the High Victorian movement and died an untimely death at the age of 41, in the formative days of modern architecture. He was praised in superlatives by well known architects Ralph Adams Cram and Frank Lloyd Wright who hailed William Halsey Wood as the "Father of Modern Architecture". Wood died on March 13, 1897, a young man who had not reached his full potential.

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William Clark House

Newark

Essex County New Jersey 034

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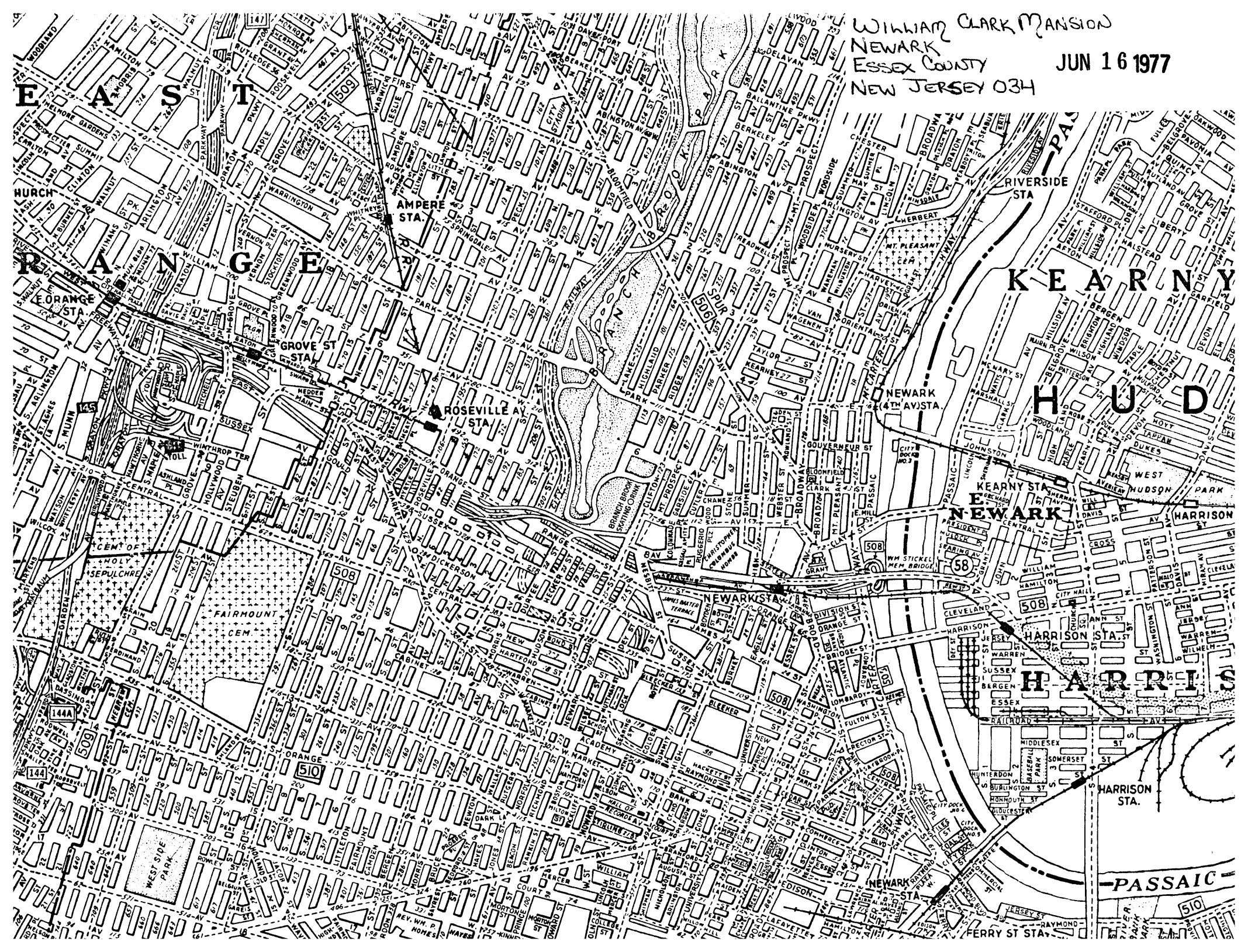
Young, James R., Textile Leaders of the South, R.L. Bryam Company, Columbia, South Carolina, 1963.

Star Ledger, April 18, 1975, (Historic Newark Landmarks will Star in T.V. Documentary) by Joan Babbage.

Program of Activities at the North Ward Educational and Cultural Center, Stephen Aduato, 346 Mt. Prospect Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07104.

WILLIAM CLARK MANSION
NEWARK
ESSEX COUNTY
NEW JERSEY 034

JUN 16 1977





William Clark House
Newark
Essex County, NJ
New Jersey 034

FEB - 1977

JUN 16 1977 1084

Neg at:

George Adams

National Register Office

Washington D.C.

view of front facade and east side

camera facing

NW

camera

Doc NOV 10 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



William Clark House
Newark
Essex County, NJ
New Jersey 07102

FEB -

204
1977

Neg at:

JUN 16 1977

George Adams
National Register Office camera viewW
Washington D.C.
view of east side and rear facade

Doc NOV 10 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



William Clark House
Newark
Essex County, NJ
New Jersey 034

374
FEB - 1977

JUN 16 1977

Neg At:

George Adams
National Register Office camera view NE
Washington D.C.
view of west side and front facade

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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



William Clark House
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 034

FEB - 1974

404

Neg at:

Rosemarie Buckley

346 Mt. Prospect Ave., Newark NJ

view of front facade camera view N

NOV 10 1977 Doc

JUN 16 1977

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